

**An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
agus Comhionannais**
Department of Justice
and Equality



Speech: Minister of State Stanton	
Event	Migrant Expo and Jobs Fair
Organiser	New Communities Partnership (NCP) and Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI)
Date	4 th October 2018
Time	11:30 am
Venue	Dublin Institute of Technology, Aungier St., Dublin 2

Check Against Delivery.

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am delighted to be here today to launch the Migrant Expo and Jobs Fair. I would like to express my congratulations to the New Communities Partnership and Business in the Community Ireland for organising this event, I think everyone can see that a lot of hard work has gone in to bringing it together. Organisations like New Communities Partnership and Business in the Community are essential in both the shaping and implementation of government policy on integration and we value the critical partnership that we have with them.

I am always very happy to support events that highlight that benefits of the diversity that migrants bring to Ireland. As I arrived here today, I saw many bright students, all setting about laying the foundations of their future. My hope is that events like these will encourage the aspirations of this younger generation and, more specifically, that it will encourage the aspirations of young people from our migrant communities. Events such as these open the door to new opportunities. They provide valuable access to organisations that might seem intimidating to someone who has not previously engaged with them.

I also want to acknowledge the employers represented here today. Each of the companies present here today is taking a very important

step that will benefit both themselves, and prospective employees. Not only are they tapping into the diversity advantage offered by our diverse young workforce, but in reaching out to prospective employees from migrant backgrounds, in offering a human point of contact, a face to the name of their organisations, they are chipping away at the mental barriers that can block people from feeling that they too can become part of that organisation.

Ireland has changed substantially over the past 30 years. As Ireland's economy grew and developed, we have welcomed more people to our shores and they have contributed to that continued growth and development. Our migrant communities are active in all sectors of the economy, and they bring their wealth of skills, experience and talent to bear in diverse ways that we can all benefit from.

In addition to the economic contribution made by members of our newer communities, we are all enriched by Ireland's increased cultural diversity. Diversity has become a fundamental characteristic of the Irish population. It has broadened and deepened our skills base and strengthened both our cultural knowledge and our cultural intelligence. Companies here today have the opportunity to attract not only skilled and well-educated employees, but also to take on board young people who have a vast amount of important cultural and linguistic knowledge to share in the workplace.

Increased diversity brings with it both challenges and responsibilities. To ensure that we can fully realise the benefits of diversity in society, we must develop a greater focus on diversity in a number of areas. Today, our focus is on improving the diversity of the Irish workforce. We want to enable migrants to become involved in a diverse range of careers, to ensure that the people working in companies and organisations in Ireland truly represent the diverse nature of Ireland's population.

I believe this event represents an important contribution to realising some of the goals of the national Migrant Integration Strategy, which was launched last year. The overall vision of the strategy is that migrants are facilitated to play a full role in Irish society, that integration is a core principle of Irish life and that Irish society and institutions work together to promote integration. A crucial step towards the achievement of this vision is ensuring an equality of opportunity in accessing employment.

This applies not only to the private sector, but also to the public sector and government. For example, the Public Appointments Service, which is responsible for the majority of civil and public service recruitment, has been tasked with ensuring that proactive outreach and support measures will be undertaken by all public sector employers to increase the number of persons from an immigrant

background working at all levels in the civil service and wider public service.

The Government has committed significant resources to help improve outcomes for migrants in Irish society. Funding for integration projects forms a critical element of our strategy. Together with funds from the European Social Fund, we are able to provide the support necessary for events like this to take place.

This event today highlights not just job opportunities available, but also highlights the fantastic talent pool that is available to the companies here today. This diverse talent pool is something truly valuable and I encourage both employers and prospective employees to make the most of the connections made possible by today's event.

Thank you for your attendance here today.

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